

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation category reflects appropriations for the Department of Transportation. It comprises approximately 9.2 percent of the recommended state budget, but only a miniscule percentage of the recommended General Fund appropriations. Nearly 100 percent of the Department's budget consists of dedicated and federal funds. The Department of Transportation comprises 19.6 percent of the recommended dedicated fund appropriations for all categories and 9.9 percent of the recommended federal fund appropriations for all categories.

The mission of the Department of Transportation is to provide Hoosiers with a transportation system that enhances mobility and stimulates economic growth while integrating safety, efficiency and environmental sensitivity. The cornerstone of the Department of Transportation is the Capital Improvement Program, which includes all phases of road and bridge construction and rehabilitation projects. The recent increase in the State Gas Tax, 1 cent goes directly to the State Highway Fund and 1 cent to continue the States bonding program, will allow the Department of Transportation to keep highway construction funding at approximately \$700 million through the biennium. For each year of the biennium \$35 million in funding from the State Highway Fund will be used to fund the Indiana State Police.

The Department also administers grants, totaling approximately \$36 million per year, to transit systems for operating subsidies and capital purchases. Funding for the grants is provided by Indiana's Public Mass Transportation Fund and federal transit grant programs. Additionally, the Department provides grants to small airports across the state through a federal-state-local matching program.